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GENERAL

1. Tripartite protest to USSR considered--The Department of State has forwarded to London and Paris for official comment a proposed note of protest to the USSR concerning the present situation in Berlin, suggesting that consultations be held immediately for settlement of this issue. The Department indicates that although a three-power note would be preferable, the US plans to send a note or equivalent statement independently if the French and British fail to endorse the US note.

US Ambassador Douglas reports that the British have indicated agreement to the draft note but do not believe the note should suggest negotiations through the Conference of Foreign Ministers or reference of the dispute to the UN. US Ambassador Caffery in Paris reports that although French Foreign Office officials may differ as to the wisdom of the original western stand on Berlin, they are united in the belief that the western powers must now remain at all costs or suffer a shattering loss of prestige.

2. UK receives Sokolovsky reassurances with reserve--US Ambassador Douglas reports that UK Foreign Secretary Berlin feels very strongly that the US and UK should continue efforts to build up the air lift to Berlin as rapidly as possible, despite the apparent softening of the Soviet position in Marshal Sokolovsky's reply to the recent British protest. Douglas also reports that the British Military Governor in Germany recommends that the western allies continue efforts to build up air strength in order to demonstrate to the USSR that the crisis will not be over until full communications for allied and German personnel are possible and quadripartite administration of the city has been restored. The Military Governor believes that Sokolovsky's letter should be received "with the utmost reserve" because it does not provide an acceptable settlement of the situation in Berlin even though, in his opinion, it removes any likelihood that the USSR intends to starve out the German population of the western sectors.

DIA & DOS review(s) completed.

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(CIA Comment: CIA does not believe that Sokolovsky's publicized assurances necessarily signify that the USSR intends to relax its restrictions on food shipments to the western sectors of Berlin.)

3. French analysis of Cominform action against Tito -US Ambas-
sador Caffery in Paris transmits

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[redacted] views that the Cominform document on Tito frankly admits that: (a) the Cominform is essentially the same organization as the prewar Comintern; (b) the Kremlin regards the "popular democracies" as Soviet territories; and (c) Moscow does directly intervene in foreign countries and no Satellite enjoys any independence whatsoever in its relations with the Kremlin.

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[redacted] told Caffery that Premier Dimitrov of Bulgaria had recently lent a sympathetic ear to Tito's proposal for a Balkan federation and is consequently "in difficulties with the Kremlin." Caffery adds that the French Communists are obviously greatly embarrassed by this crisis in the Soviet sphere.

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4. UK to exploit Yugoslav situation -US Ambassador Douglas has learned that the UK Foreign Office intends to "exploit the Yugoslav situation to the hilt" through information media directed particularly toward Poland and Czechoslovakia.

5. USSR reportedly shipping arms to Czechoslovakia -The US Military Attaché in London transmits

[redacted] that the USSR is shipping arms and ammunition to Czechoslovakia in lieu of the food called for by the Soviet-Czechoslovak agreement.

[redacted] the "Russian timetable" calls for the outbreak of hostilities with the western European powers in August 1948.

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(CIA Comment: The majority of US observers in Europe are of the opinion, in which CIA concurs, that the USSR will not provoke an early armed conflict in western Europe. Moreover, the current rift between the USSR and Yugoslavia makes the present time inopportune for the USSR to wage war. Available evidence indicates that the rate of arms shipments from the USSR to Czechoslovakia does not indicate preparations for western European conflict in the near future. Such arms may be intended for transshipment to Palestine.)

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